

Russell Gladstone , 9 Wixted Ave., Danbury CT 06810

Re: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee's public hearing on S.B.
No. 1011 - An Act Concerning a Reorganization of Connecticut's System of Public Higher
Education.

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Committee. Thank you very
much for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Russell Gladstone, I am a librarian
at Western Connecticut State University.

I have several areas of concern. First, the diminishing value of degrees earned by our
students if we are assimilated into an administrative bureaucracy where distinctions
between the mission of our state's great community colleges, and the Connecticut State
University's comprehensive mission, are blurred. I have worked at both a community
college, and the University of New Mexico before I came to Connecticut. I've assisted a
great number of community college students who have visited my library at Western
Connecticut State University, in addition to helping our undergraduate and graduate
students. I've reached a conclusion from helping thousands of students for more than
25 years, that each institution's students have vastly different needs, because they are
working toward unique goals. This differentiation is most obvious when comparing
community college students who take developmental studies courses with our
university students taking upper level and graduate courses.

The second area of concern about the reorganization is focused on the implications of providing the high quality education we've strived to create in a fiscal environment that is already underfunded. One manifestation of this problem is the number of special appointment faculty holding one or two year appointments, and no tenure track faculty searches in the pipeline to fill existing vacancies. This situation has lead to fewer faculty available carry the numerous responsibilities that fully support our work teaching classes, and beyond. We, the faculty, pride our shelves on participating in the governance of the university in collaboration with the administration. It is vital to continue to provide both the fiscal resources and the cooperative structures that are now in place. It is only with full participation that we can continue to evolve our programs, with high academic standards, to create the future that our students will need.

A third concern, but closely related to my second point is the potential budget disruptions produced by the 15% re-allocation component of the re-organization proposal. The university operates with very spare discretionary funds, so the impact of such a major re-allocation would have seismic consequences to our programs, and great unpredictability for planning for our students' needs.

We have worked hard to build high quality local choices for Connecticut comprehensive higher education. It is my belief that our state's economy will recover, but the damage that will be done by the proposed re-organization to the CSUs may prove to be

devastating to the point that our present students may leave and never return, and future students may never apply. Resulting in excellent opportunities lost.

Thank you, and I would be happy to respond to any questions.